GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2522
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITHIN SAARC FRAMEWORK
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress in economic cooperation within the SAARC framework has not been satisfactory for sometime; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

a) Yes.

b) The South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) was signed way back in 1993. Till date, the full operationalisation of this Agreement is yet to take place. In addition, SAARC has missed the deadline of 2001 for drawing up a Framework Treaty for a South Asian Free Trade Area(SAFTA). The new deadline for the drafting of this Treaty is now 2002.